

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-NY19) issued the following statement regarding his vote of "no" on H.R. 3688, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act.

"I campaigned last year for Congress saying that I would only support Free Trade Agreements if they included enforceable labor and environmental standards, agreements that could be described as Fair Trade Agreements that would protect workers here and in the country under consideration as well as reinforce our environmental concerns around the world.

While the new provisions of the Peru Free Trade Agreement make some progress toward those goals, they fall short in several ways. First, the International Labor Organizations' standards are not included in the body of the agreement, but rather in "Supreme Decrees" issued by Peru's president. Like presidential findings or orders in the U.S., such decrees can easily be reversed by future presidents.

Second, the core of the agreement remains the same language as the NAFTA and CAFTA deals which contributed to the loss of 3 million manufacturing jobs, stagnating wages and a nearly \$800 billion trade deficit.

Despite the considerable efforts and progress made toward a fairer agreement, the Peru Free Trade Agreement still does not meet my original stated goal of enforceability. Therefore, I voted no and am hoping that a new American president will revisit the issue of trade with Peru and other countries, and I look forward to voting for a new trade regime that truly protects workers and the environment, both here and abroad."

-30-